



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SOYBEAN OIL NOW USED TO HELP FUEL EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES

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Idaho Transportation Department emergency response vehicles that come to the aid of motorists on Interstate 84 in the Treasure Valley now run on clean burning biodiesel fuel that can reduce harmful diesel exhaust emissions by up to 20 percent, Idaho Energy Division officials announced today.

The fuel is a blend of 20 percent soybean oil and 80 percent petroleum diesel, giving it the B20 name.

ITD will use B20 biodiesel fuel in two vehicles that patrol eight hours per day on I-84 between Nampa and East Boise. These trucks use approximately 125 gallons of fuel each week.

Conversion to the environmentally friendly fuel is part of a program conducted by the Idaho Energy Division in partnership with a variety of local public and private sector organizations. Diesel users in the partnership pay for the cost of the diesel and the Idaho Energy Division, using a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, pays the additional 15 cents per gallon for the biofuel.

“We are glad to be a part of this important program,” said ITD District 3 Maintenance Manager Dick Powell. “Not only is biodiesel fuel consistent with our commitment to improve air quality in the communities we serve, it also generates domestic jobs. This is a win-win situation.”

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The B20 biodiesel fuel now is being used by a variety of vehicles around the valley. These include six Treasure Valley Transit commuter buses, five Meridian School District buses and six garbage and recycling vehicles from Sanitary Services Company.

BFI Waste Services of Idaho, which does garbage and recycling collection in Boise, has also told program managers it wants to fuel at least six on the company's recycling vehicles with the B20 biodiesel fuel.

United Oil of Nampa is mixing and delivering the B20 biodiesel fuel.

B20 biodiesel fuel burns cleaner than regular diesel and can reduce particulates in diesel exhaust by up to 18 percent, air toxics by up to 20 percent, carbon monoxide by about 12 percent and hydrocarbons by 11 percent according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The emergency response units using the B20 fuel will have special placards which notes they are operating on the clean-burning biodiesel fuel. The vehicles will burn the B20 fuel for about the next six to nine months.

For more information on the program, contact Dick Larsen, program manager, at 327-7933 or visit the B20 Treasure Valley web site at www.idwr.state.id.us/B20.